

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region  
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

FACT SHEET

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
NPDES PERMIT NO. CA002519

FOR

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
SEISMIC RETROFIT PROJECT, HUMBOLDT BAY BRIDGES

Humboldt County

The California Department of Transportation submitted a Report of Waste Discharge dated June 4, 2001 for a seismic retrofit project on the Humboldt Bay Bridges. The Humboldt Bay Bridges are three bridge structures located in Humboldt County on State Route 255 between the City of Eureka and the Samoa Peninsula from Post Mile (PM) 0.2 to 1.9. The goal of the project is to retrofit the three bridge structures for protection against collapse during a Maximum Credible Earthquake (MCE) event. Approximately 40 piers over a 1.7-mile distance will be upgraded during a minimum 32-month construction period.

Temporary, localized turbidity in Humboldt Bay is expected as a consequence of construction activities. The project will require excavation and drilling within Humboldt Bay and adjacent upland (above high tide) areas. In addition, other construction activities having potential to contribute sediment to storm water discharges include: transfer and transport of soils and excavated bay sediments, stockpiling and storing of excavated soils and bay sediments, discharge of process water, storm water runoff from disturbed areas, and dewatering excavated soils and bay sediments. Total excavation for the project is estimated at 5,000 cubic yards. Other associated activities which could have potential impacts include wet concrete washing, the use of other chemical materials used during construction, and the use of petroleum products, which could be spilled and reach Humboldt Bay and/or its tributaries.

Mitigation measures addressed in a Conceptual Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (CSWPPP) and other documents associated with the Humboldt Bay Bridges retrofit project should reduce impacts to water quality.

Receiving Water Limitations are intended to address sediment discharges and turbidity increases. No other constituents, including toxic or priority pollutants, are expected to be added to the waste discharge. Therefore, there is no reasonable potential for the discharge of toxic or priority pollutants that could cause or contribute to excursions above water quality standards, and on that basis the proposed Order does not implement effluent-based provisions in the California Toxics Rule (CTR) for priority pollutants. The proposed Order contains Discharge Prohibitions and Receiving Water Limitations that implement water quality objectives as set forth in the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Basin.

The NPDES permit contains a monitoring and reporting program to determine compliance with Receiving Water Limitations.

Copies of the draft permit may be obtained by contacting the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, at the address above.

For any additional information or question in this matter, please contact:

Miguel A. Villicana  
Water Resources Control Engineer  
Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region  
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
Telephone No. (707) 576-2347, Email: [villm@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:villm@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov)